

B-3119 - B-3131  
836-800 William St. (West side)  
Baltimore, Md.  
Private access

1850-1880's

As originally built, all of the houses but one lining this side of the 800 block of William St. were three story in height with gable roofs, and all but 828 William St. are two bays wide. The exception is 806 William St. which is a two story plus attic brick house. The houses were built for a middle class market--men who had prospered in the local shipbuilding and glass-making trades and could afford a larger and more comfortable house than the two story plus attic type built for their working class neighbors. Many of the houses retain their original appearance but 828, 818, and 800 William St. now have shed roofs and bracketed cornices, added after the Civil War. 804 William St. is one of only two bow-fronted, Classical-Revival influenced brick and brownstone houses in the Federal Hill area, and seems to have replaced an earlier structure on the site. At 820 William St., at the south-west corner of William and Churchill Streets, is the currently vacant, Classical-Revival style church building of the South Baltimore Station of the Methodist Episcopal Church, built by church members in the early 1850's. The building is three stories in height with a high gable roof that runs parallel to Churchill St., the pedimented gable end fronting on William St. The facade is divided into three bays by two-story high brick piers that run from the high "rusticated" basement to the severe Classical pediment.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3119  
MAGI 0431192404

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

836 William St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story brick house with gable roof is located on the corner of William St. and Warren Ave. It is two bays wide on William St. but extends back along Warren Ave. for four bays. There is also a four bay, two story addition extending farther back along Warren Ave. The entrance to the house is located on Warren Ave. This house was built contemporaneously with its neighbors to the north, 830-834 William St., c. 1849-1850.

The house is a full three stories in height, 14 1/2' wide, and extends back on its lot about . The main structure is constructed in running bond; the two story addition to the rear is constructed in common bond. The low-pitched gable roof has a double, hooded rectangular chimney located on the southern side of the front gable and a single hooded chimney on the southern side of the rear gable. There is also a rear end chimney at the north-west corner of the two story kitchen addition. A simple, two-tier brick cornice extends across the William St. facade.

All of the William St. window openings have common arch lintels. The openings of the first floor have stone sills; those of the second and third floors have sills composed of a row of brick headers. New 9/9 sash fills the first floor window openings; new 6/6 sash fills the openings of the second and third floors, on both the William St. and Warren Ave. facades. The Warren Ave. window openings, however, are missing their original lintels (the space has been in-filled with new brick), though they do have the same header sills as the William St. openings. The entrance, on the Warren Ave. side of the house, is framed by a wood molding, with plain, flat sides and an arched lintel. A single light transom surmounts a modern six panel door. The house sits on a low basement, the entrance being reached by a flight of three marble steps.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1849-50

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William H. Harmon

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is representative of a large group of three story, gable-roofed houses built in this section of Federal Hill in the 1840's and 1850's to accomodate the rising number of middle-class residents in the area--men who owned small businesses in the area or who had prospered at the local ship-building and glass-making trades. Houses such as this were almost always sold outright to the families who would live in them, for prices ranging from about \$1200 to \$1500. In addition to the three story height, these houses are generally larger in overall scale than the type of house built for working class residents. The rooms are larger, more open, and with higher ceilings; the spacious stairways are located in a separate stair hall area which communicated with both the main body of the house and the kitchen and dining areas located in a rear addition. The houses are usually located on fairly deep lots (as is the case here) and have pleasant back garden areas.

This particular house was built by William Harmon, a local house carpenter, who also built 204 Warren Ave. Harmon lived in this house until 1857 when he sold it to Augustus Sessions, a fish dealer who operated from the Light St. wharf.<sup>1</sup> Sessions, whose business apparently continued to grow, and who by 1870 was in partnership with his brothers, continued to live in the house into the 1880's.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Baltimore City Directory, 1856-57; Baltimore City Land Records, Liber GES 140, Folio 199

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 1858, 1870

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. &amp; Eccles

DATE

3/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





B-3119  
836 Williams Street  
Block 0906 Lot 001  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







B-3119

836 William St.

M.E.H.

4/79

South and east elevations